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OTE 86-4011

7 MAY 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Administration

STAT FROM: [redacted]
Director of Training and Education

SUBJECT: Mark Russell Guest Speaker Program

1. Attached are suggested remarks for your assistance in introducing Mark Russell to the Agency audience in the Headquarters Auditorium on 21 May 1986.

STAT 2. [redacted], Dean of Conferences, will escort Mr. Russell to your office at 1345 hours. A photographer will be available should you wish a picture-taking session.

STAT [redacted]

Attachment

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES -

TO REMIND US THAT WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC AND STRENGTH OF AMERICA ARE TALENT, DETERMINATION, AND THE ABILITY TO LAUGH AT OURSELVES, WE HAVE INVITED AS OUR GUEST THIS AFTERNOON MARK RUSSELL - A HUMORIST WHO ENJOYS A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OVER MOST SATIRISTS AND COMICS. HE HAS HUNDREDS OF HIGHLY-PAID ELECTED AND APPOINTED GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS TO CREATE HIS MATERIAL FOR HIM. HIS WIT, INSPIRED FROM CHILDHOOD BY MORT SAHL AND FRED ALLEN - AND LIGHTLY SEASONED WITH A PINCH OF TOM LEHRER AND A DASH OF STEVE ALLEN - HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS RUFFLING FEATHERS WITHOUT BREAKING SKIN. Senate Democratic Policy Committee Bulletin

A NATIVE OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK - WHERE HE GREW UP IN THE DEPRESSION YEARS OF THE THIRTIES, IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT MARK RUSSELL IS THAT CITY'S FINEST EXPORT SINCE MILLARD FILLMORE. HE SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS IN THE 1950'S AND SPENT A FEW WEEKS IN COLLEGE BEFORE LAUNCHING A CAREER AS A PIANO PLAYER IN THE CARROLL ARMS HOTEL ON CAPITOL HILL. HE MADE UP SONGS ABOUT HIS CUSTOMERS, MANY OF WHOM JUST HAPPENED TO BE POLITICIANS, AND QUICKLY OUTGREW THE. . . .

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He QUICKLY OUTGREW THE SALOON. HE WAS RESIDENT COMEDIAN AT WASHINGTON'S SHOREHAM HOTEL FROM 1959 TO 1979. WHEN NOT CATCHING PLANES, MARK LIVES QUIETLY HERE IN WASHINGTON WITH HIS WIFE, ALI, AND HIS PIANO WHICH - WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING - HE PLAYS SITTING DOWN.

HIS COLUMN, SYNDICATED BY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, APPEARS IN MORE THAN 100 NEWSPAPERS. FOR MANY YEARS, HIS RADIO COLUMN ON NBC AND HIS CO-HOST ~~CHORES~~ mag OF TELEVISION'S REAL PEOPLE CONFLICTED WITH HIS FIRST LOVE, THE MARK RUSSELL COMEDY SPECIALS, NOW IN THEIR ELEVENTH SEASON ON PUBLIC BROADCAST SERVICE.

BUT IT'S THE LIVE AUDIENCE HE LOVES. AND HERE WE ARE.

AND HERE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS MARK RUSSELL.

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